AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1. - 10 are canceled.

11. (currently amended): A linear light detector apparatus for detecting light from an object that is generated by a plurality of concurrently scanning spot beams that scan the object along a first common axis, said light detector apparatus comprising:

a plurality of adjacent light detector sections disposed linearly along a second common axis, each detector section positioned to detect said light concurrently with other detector sections ~~from~~ that is generated by a respective scanning beam, and comprising:

a plurality of adjacent light detectors disposed linearly along said second common axis, and

at least one multi-stage storage device operative to receive in parallel an input from said plurality of light detectors and to serially read out information stored in said multiple stages.

12. (original): The linear light detector apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein each said light detector section comprises an input for section transfer signals and an output for serial readout of said section.

13. (previously presented): The linear light detector apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein each said light detector section comprises a temporary shift register having plural stages, said temporary shift register being operative to receive in each stage in parallel the content of a corresponding detector and to be read out serially.

14. (original): The linear light detector apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a source of section transfer signals, said source providing section transfer signals to

read out a plurality of said stages in series, and a data out line, including a buffer, to carry said serial read out signals.

15. (currently amended): A method for detecting signals representing values of light for a plurality of pixels that are stored in a linear CCD having a first plurality of sections disposed linearly along a second common axis, each section comprising a second plurality of pixel storage elements disposed linearly along said first common axis and receiving an input from a respective one of a ~~third~~ plurality of concurrently scanning beams that scan an object along a first common axis, comprising:

capturing and storing the content of each of said ~~third~~ plurality of scanning beams simultaneously in a respective signal storage section; and

concurrently for said first plurality of sections, serially reading out the stored signals.

16. (currently amended): The method of claim 15 further comprising synchronizing the timing of said scanning of said ~~third~~ plurality of beams and said readout of said stored signals.

17. (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said capturing and storing step is conducted concurrently in only a portion of said first plurality of sections.

Claims 18. - 42 are canceled.